same time, the Communists urged the workers to keep their brothers, the soldiers of the Petrograd garrison, from being sent to the trenches by the government and the Executive Committee. Some factories took the bait and passed resolutions demanding the immediate end of the war, resignation of the Provisional Government, transfer of all power to the Soviets, publication of the Tsar's secret treaties, and the organization of a proletarian Red Guard. Other resolutions protested against moving revolutionary troops from the capital.

By the end of April a dozen factories and one regiment (First Machine Gunners) had openly aligned themselves with the Communist party.

To increase the efficiency of the Executive Committee, Tseretelli suggested the appointment of a bureau consisting of Committee members who supported the policy of the majority. This plan, however, provoked heated opposition from the left-wing Mensheviks, who found it undemocratic. After long discussion a bureau was elected, but with representation from all factions, including the Communists. The new bureau was as divided against itself as the Committee. Tseretelli's plan was defeated.

A REGIONAL CONVENTION

The political situation in the provinces was better than in Petrograd. I got some insight into conditions in Finland at the regional convention of the Soviets in Helsinki. The convention was limited to Russian workers and troops in Finland. Some 125 to 130 delegates were almost evenly divided among sailors, soldiers, and workers. The sailors declared themselves almost unanimously for national defense. They had strong sympathy for the S-R as a peasant party, but expressed themselves in their own colorful and forceful way, stressing their responsibility for the security of the capital, and seemed deeply worried about the inroads of Communist propaganda in Kronstadt and the Baltic fleet.

The soldiers were less articulate, and most of them followed the leadership of the sailors. The workers' delegates were divided on almost every question. About half supported the left wing of the Petrograd Soviet but without the Bolshevists' vehemence. Their arguments sounded sincere and occasionally aroused a response in the ranks of sailors and soldiers.

The discussion went on in a friendly way. I tried to explain to the convention why we could not base national defense on the idea of world revolution. All delegates agreed that the Executive Committee might be right after all.